

Senator Toni Harp
Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Toni Harp

My name is Marrissa Lefebvre; I am a senior in the Wamogo Agriscience Program in Litchfield. I live in Northfield and I attend this regional agriscience school choice Program because I love horses. I have come to enjoy Equine Science as my field of study through the agriscience program at Wamogo.

Over the years I have worked with horses at multiple barns; starting with the basics of cleaning up manure from stalls and paddocks, to learning how to groom a horse from head to hoof properly, and finally gaining as much knowledge needed to maintain a barn for up to a week by myself

My Supervised Agricultural Experience Entrepreneurship is taking care of other people's horses. Working at the barn is teaching me that when you expect something to flow perfectly you should always expect an issue to arise and know how to respond to the issue. Taking care of horses has become a part of my life. I am always on my toes due to the fact that you can never be too cautious around horses. I want gain as much experience as possible so that one day in the future I can get my own horses and know how to properly for them.

I am part of Wamogo's FFA program which over the past four years has taken a shy and quiet girl and turned her into an independent well spoken young lady. I have attended many events such as public speaking. I am happy to say that Wamogo was one of the best choices I have made so far with my education, it has changed the person I was back in eighth grade into a strong willed intelligent senior.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.** I agree with the CFBA that "the need for education never stops.... CFBA sponsors initiatives to take agriculture into Connecticut classrooms..." My access to agriculture in the classroom has benefited me in many ways, and I am sure that many other students will attend Wamogo and get the same opportunity that I had the past three years.

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.
Sincerely,

Marrissa Lefebvre

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